The Ex Nihilo

by Valravn Craft

A comprehensive Guide by @LakeofShisha

Written by Max Halm

Published by Dragonfly Mike

To thoroughly test the HMD, I used a variety of packs, coal combinations and different bowls in order to provide the most comprehensive feedback possible. The Hmd is made of Stainless Steel. It is designed to focus on heating the bowl itself rather than its contents.

The underside is designed in such a way that even bowls so small that the air vents sit on or beyond the edge still work with this HMD. This is due to the special base pattern.

The Ex Nihilo is about 161gs, compared to a Lotus 1+3 (128gs without lid), and the Ocean (145g). One the the Na Grani is heavier at 168gs. The diameter is 6,7cm which makes the Ex Nhilio smaller than any other regular HMD by 5mm when compared to an Ocean which is smallest regular HMD for two or more coals.

I found that the best combination in terms of heat and session duration without changing coals was two 26mm inside and two 27mm coals which is shown below

Due to its structure, weight, and the previously mention focus on bowl heating, the HMD requires more than three coals to perform well. Of Course, using four 26mm coals also works. Maybe you need five 26mm for starting up (or a windcover.)

Publisher Notes: Below are various methods of arranging coals. These pictures were provided by Max Halm's stories and belong to him. The descriptions were also written by Max Halm.

Pros:

+Ultra nice design and look, pure craftsmanship

+Fits a wide variety of bowls

+Once it's running, it performs great, evenly, and kind of regulates itself

+Can handle a lot of heat but still reacts very sensitively to even the smallest coal adjustments (which really surprised me - in a good way)

+Heat distribution, thanks to the internal and bottom structure, is perfect for almost any type of bowl used with it, except bowls which exceed the diameter of it

+High-quality manufacturing, lots of attention to detail, and no flaws in the processing

+A cool and solid alternative to other major HMD brands

+Once you understand how it works, there's a lot of room to experiment

+Works with contactless setups, overpack, turkish, killer, and phunnel bowls-even with foil, and it performs great in all cases

+Due to higher coal usage, it runs longer and allows for extended sessions with just one round of coals

+No unnecessary coatings that could affect flavor or raise health+Ultra nice design and look, pure craftsmanship

+Fits a wide variety of bowls

+Once it's running, it performs great, evenly, and kind of regulates itself

+Can handle a lot of heat but still reacts very sensitively to even the smallest coal adjustments (which really surprised me - in a good way)

+Heat distribution, thanks to the internal and bottom structure, is perfect for almost any type of bowl used with it, except bowls which exceed the diameter of it

+High-quality manufacturing, lots of attention to detail, and no flaws in the processing

+A cool and solid alternative to other major HMD brands

+Once you understand how it works, there's a lot of room to experiment

Cons:

-High price (but you can't imagine how much work went into this and how complicated it is to make)

-No lid (which could reduce startup time and make heat management more comfortable for "beginners"

-Some heat issues with very heavy bowls that have super thick walls (requires more coals and longer heat-up time to get the bowl running properly in this special case we talk about really heavy big bowls exceeding 450g or walls with more then 0,9 cm thickness

-Doesn't perform well outdoors with windy, or slightly colder conditions - use a windcover to ensure proper performance in those situations

-(Cleaning the underside inside the patterns is a bit tricky. It's not a big deal or impacts the performance, but still worth mentioning)

Summary Based on My Experience:

This HMD is not suitable for beginners or for people who don't put much thought into their packing method or heat management!

The HMD requires attention in order to be understood. But once you've figured it out and know how it works, it opens up many possibilities for experimenting and trying out different setups.

With this HMD, you're holding a truly exceptional piece of craftsmanship in its most refined form. It may challenge you to approach things differently than you're used to, but once you understand it and know how to use it, you'll love it. That doesn't mean the HMD can only be used in one specific way - it it's definitely more than just "put it on and go." It may not be the ultimate, but it's definitely a great addition to your setups and simply something different.